

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055249

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: PKJOHNSON

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TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055249

EXDIS TOSEC 377

FOL REPEAT OF BUENOS AIRES 1714 TO SECSTATE INFO MONTEVIDEO
MAR 12

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1714

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SEC FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, CU

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN BLANCO: CUBAN QUESTION

1. FONMIN BLANCO POSTPONED THE CUBAN QUESTION UNTIL WE
COULD MEET PRIVATELY AT THE RESIDENCE OVER A LATE SUPPER.
HE REVIEWED AT LENGTH THE CUBAN CONNECTION WITH THE
TUPAMAROS. I SAID THAT HE COULD HAVE NO DOUBT OF OUR
ATTITUDE TOWARD A FRIEND WHOSE BACK WAS AGAINST THE WALL,
AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REJECT ANY MEASURE WHICH
WOULD INCREASE THE TERRORIST RISK TO THE GOA. HE ADMITTED
THAT A LIFTING OF THE OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA WOULD
HAVE NO PRACTICAL EFFECT ON THE MILITARY EQUATION OF THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 055249

GUERRILLA WAR IN URUGUAY. BUT HE SAID THAT AS A MATTER OF

PRACTICAL DOMESTIC POLITICS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR URUGUAY TO CONCERT ITSELF WITH A MOVE TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS UNTIL THERE COULD BE SOME KIND OF ASSURANCES AS TO CUBAN SUPPORT FOR THE TERRORISTS IN THE FUTURE.

2. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN TIDE WAS TOWARD THE RELAXATION OF THE COLLECTIVE MEASURES, THAT THEY WERE ALREADY CONSIDERABLY DILUTED, AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM AFFECTED, BY THE RESUMPTION OF THE RELATIONS OF SO MANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT URUGUAYAN CONCERN ABOUT CUBA WAS BASED ON HARD FACTS AND WAS NOT AN EXERCISE IN DOMESTIC DEMAGOGUERY-- A POINT I SAID WE FULLY UNDERSTOOD. HE SAID HE INTENDED IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT SOME FORM OF SUBSTITUTE MEASURES. THESE MIGHT INCLUDE GUARANTEES OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OAS COMMISSION TO MONITOR CUBAN ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NONINTERVENTION. HE WILL COMMUNICATE FURTHER WITH US. IF SOME OTHER MEASURE CAN BE DEVELOPED WHICH CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE AS A RELACEMENT FOR THE OUTMODED SYSTEM OF SANCTIONS, HE COULD GO ALONG WITH THE TWO-STEP PROPOSAL.

HILL
UNQTE INGERSOLL

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